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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROJECT BOYS GANG MEMBER SENTENCED
IN VIOLENT DRUG CONSPIRACY**

Baltimore, MD - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Darryl Hairston, age 24, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced today by United States District Judge J. Frederick Motz to 20 years imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking conspiracy.

According to the statement of facts, from at least 1995 through July 2001, Hairston conspired to distribute heroin, cocaine and cocaine base (crack) in East Baltimore with a group of co-conspirators known as the Project Boys or L.A. Boys, as most of the members were originally from the Lafayette Homes Housing Project. Hairston and his co-conspirators distributed the drugs first in the Lafayette and Douglas Housing Projects and later, from the late 1990's through July 2001, in the vicinity of Washington and Lafayette, Lafayette and Chapel and Lafayette and Castle, North Avenue and Washington, in East Baltimore, and in West Baltimore, at drug shop in the vicinity of Pennsylvania and Gold. Hairston and other members of the organization used and possessed

firearms in furtherance of that drug conspiracy.

According to the statement of facts, in the fall of 2000 a dispute arose between the Project Boys and another east-side drug trafficking group known as the North Avenue Boys. The dispute led to a series of shootings and retaliatory shootings between the rival groups resulting in the deaths of five people, including Keith Hamlet, a member of the North Avenue Boys murdered by members of the Project Boys on November 11, 2000. To date, nine of Hairston's federally indicted "Project Boys" co-defendants have entered guilty pleas, several of whom are pending sentencing in federal court.

This case was investigated by federally deputized detectives from the Baltimore City Police Homicide Unit assigned to the DEA and federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew G.W. Norman and John F. Purcell, Jr.